

HOMESTEAD HAPPENINGS

129 Morris Turnpike, Newton, NJ 07860

A Publication for Sussex County Homestead Residents, Staff, Families & Friends

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SUSSEX COUNTY HOMESTEAD RECEIVES ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Sussex County Homestead was recognized for their achievements during a recent awards ceremony hosted by Healthcare Quality Strategies, Inc. (HQSI), the Medicare-designated Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) for New Jersey. The award honored the successes the Homestead made as a voluntary participant of the nationwide Nursing Home Quality Initiative (NHQI), a three-year project sponsored by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. **Jake Lighten**, Homestead Administrator said, "Our goal is to extend these successes to additional clinical areas."

Long known in the County for long-term care for seniors, the Homestead recently added sub acute services and is in the process of adding new rehabilitation services, including a Balance Center. **Stephen Gruchacz**, Administrator of Human Services said, "We are proud of the leadership at the Homestead and the staff who care for our residents each day. It is through participation in national initiatives such as this and adding new programs that meet the needs of Sussex County residents that citizens may remain in Sussex County and not travel to other parts of the state for the care they need. It is definitely a quality of life issue for not only the residents who live at the Homestead but also their families."

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH:

Problems can become opportunities when the right people come together.

Robert Redford

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FAIR BOOTH

The Sussex County Homestead Auxiliary is selling 50/50 tickets during the Garden State Fair/Sussex County Farm and Horse Show. The winning ticket will be drawn on August 10, the last day of the Fair.

The Sussex County Homestead is looking for volunteers to sit at the Homestead booth during the Fair (August 1 to August 10, 2008). We are asking friends, family, volunteers and staff to sit for two or four-hour periods to sell 50/50 tickets and give out information about the Sussex County Homestead. Because we are selling tickets, we ask that volunteers be age 16 or older. Please call Mary Ellen (973-948-5400, ext. 1) if you are able to help. Each volunteer will get one complimentary ticket for admission their scheduled volunteer day.

RESIDENTS ELIGIBLE FOR ECONOMIC STIMULUS REBATE

Even if our residents' incomes are too low to require them to pay taxes, residents must file an income tax return to receive the economic stimulus payment authorized under recently enacted legislation. The payment will be \$300 for individuals or \$600 for married couples filing jointly.

Residents need to file their return by October 15. The Homestead has volunteers to assist residents in filing for the rebate. See the business office for more information on tax returns for rebates.

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A Note from the Auxiliary:

Thank you for your generous support of the Homestead Auxiliary Tricky Tray. All monies raised go to a benefit fund for the residents of the Homestead. The Auxiliary is always working to make the quality of the residents' lives as rich and full as possible. Your support of the Tricky Tray has given us the ability to continue to reach that goal.

The Homestead Auxiliary and I thank the many people, including the residents of the Homestead, who braved a ninety night to attend the Tricky Tray and the many merchants and individuals that donated toward the event.

Sincerely,
Rose Vesper, Auxiliary President

A Note from a Family:

To Everyone at the Sussex County Homestead:

Thank You. Two very simple words that can never express just how grateful we all are that our beloved and sorely missed Mother/Grandmother/Great-Grandmother, **Sarah Azzollini** was able to spend the last chapter of her life in such capable and caring hands.

As our Mother resided for over five years at the Homestead and we, her family, visited at all times of the days and evenings and attended dinners and events, we were able to see first hand just how well our Mother and all of the other residents were, and are cared for. We know that often many of you are rarely seen or noticed by the resident's families but our family knows you are there and just how hard you all work. Indeed, you not only do your jobs and do them well, but also extend your own personal kindness and compassion to the residents and even extend that caring to the families of your residents. This type of dedication and compassion is rare to find and should not go unnoticed or unappreciated.

Thank you for all the little things you do each and every day. Thank you for all the hugs you give to residents many of whom would otherwise rarely feel the comfort a simple hug can give. Thank you for helping the residents retain their personal dignity. Thank you for helping the residents look nice with clean clothes, and for the females who desired it, makeup and hair dos so they can feel just that bit better. Thank you for providing good food, snacks, activities and entertainment. Thank you for dealing with the resident's health issues with speed and compassion. Thank you for keeping everything clean and comfortable for residents and visitors alike. Thank you for keeping the resident's families updated regarding their conditions. Thank you for all that you do that is not in your job description. Most importantly, thank you for keeping Sarah Azzollini well, happy, safe and involved for the last five and a half years and for easing her distress and comforting her in her last months when she began to struggle with health issues. In her last days we saw many of you visit Mom on your own time as well as extend comfort to us, her family.

Saying Thank You is just not enough for all you have done but it is none the less heart felt.

Sincerely,
The Azzollini and Sydney Families

A Note from the Administrator:

Dear Friends,

The Homestead picnic is an event that gives me the opportunity to spend time with residents and families. It is a special time for our community. This year was no exception. Lot's of laughs and generally a good time was had by all. The kitchen did an excellent job preparing and serving the meals. Activities and nursing worked hard to make sure the event was a success. Looking forward to next year.

*Sincerely,
Jake Lighten, Nursing Home Administrator*

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Group Meetings

BOOK CLUB

The activities department is implementing a new group. The group, which will meet in the family room on Tuesdays, will read and discuss short stories. This is a special activity run by a volunteer. If you are interested, please speak to anyone in the activities department.



TEA PARTY RAISES FUNDS TO ENRICH LIVES AT THE HOMESTEAD

The Homestead Life Enrichment Foundation, Inc. recently held its first fundraiser at the Tea Hive in Newton. The event was a sellout success and was enjoyed by all who attended. Although the weather was a little chilly, close to 70 people came out to enjoy the tasty meal and participate in the raffle for beautiful door prizes donated by several individuals and local businesses. This first time event was so much fun it will become an annual happening. The Board of Directors for the HLEF would like to thank all of the people that supported us and helped to make this event such a success. The Homestead Life Enrichment Foundation, Inc. is dedicated to augmenting the basic care and services provided by Sussex County Homestead and, thus, enriching the lives of the residents, staff, family members and community.

For more information, the Homestead Life Enrichment Foundation can be reached at homesteadenrichment@gmail.com.

- **Auxiliary Meeting**
Wednesday, July 2, 2008
Wednesday, August 6, 2008
4:30 pm Auditorium
- **Caregivers Support Group**
Tuesday, July 29, 2008
Tuesday, August 26, 2008
Family Room

JOKE OF THE MONTH

Ed Waller

What type of clothing is on a house?

ADDRESS

Congratulations to **Faith Parker**, daughter of **Peggy**, our head nurse and **Allen**, our volunteer. Faith, a senior at Kittatinny High School, was crowned Miss Hampton 2008.

WELCOME NEW RESIDENTS:

Margaret Tomchuk, Elizabeth Garnis, Mary Fargo, Harold Beatty, Joan Dabal and James Kelly

WELCOME NEW STAFF:

Lowana Ayers, Carmen Schembri, Autumn Pittenger, Shannon Steele, Virginia Cooper, Barbara Wilson, Joan Wilson, Joan Shane, Karen Vealey, Joseph Napolatano, Tylisha Rivera and James Paddock.

In Memoriam

The Homestead family extends its condolences to the families of **Charles Gautier, William Bliwise, Margaret O'Dell, Mary Joe, John Ardler and Edward Dilworth.**

Staff Information

Activities ext. 3119
Administration ext. 3101
Admissions ext. 3115
Business Office ext. 3104
Dietary ext. 3111
2nd floor Nursing ext. 3201
3rd floor Nursing ext. 3301
Social Service ext. 3140
Volunteers ext. 3115



Marlene McGregor, Volunteer Ombudsman
(973) 948-2743

Families and/or residents can contact any of the above people with any questions or concerns.

The Homestead Life Enrichment Foundation
homesteadenrichment@gmail.com

Resident Information

Second floor phone: 973-948-3316
Third Floor Phone: 973-948-4058
Resident e-mail: homesteadresident@yahoo.com

UPCOMING EVENTS:

7-1 Out Door Pavilion Concert
7-8 2nd floor BBQ
7-16 Baseball Game Bus Trip
7-22 2nd Floor BBQ
7-23 2008 Olympic Games Outdoors
8-7 Trip to the Fair
8-12 Breakfast Buffet

We are also planning Evening Luau for August!

Please see the activities calendar for more exciting programs!

RESIDENT RIGHTS FOCUS

Our residents have the right to self-determination. They may choose their own activities, schedules and health care and any other aspect significant to and affecting their life within the facility.

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